

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) An ~~[[A]]~~ apparatus for manufacturing composite lumber, the apparatus comprising:

an extruder for extruding initially heated composite materials as an extrudate;

an extrudate speed detector having a speed-indication output; ~~the extrudate speed detector coupled to the extruder;~~ and

a servo-controlled cutter coupled to the speed-indication output of the extrudate speed detector, wherein the servo-controlled cutter cuts an inelastic extrudate portion without communicating imperfections to an elastic extrudate portion as the extrudate is extruded.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the extruder comprises an extrusion die with a generally rectangular cross-sectional configuration.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the extruder comprises an extrusion die with cross-sectional configuration adapted to form hollow-core lumber.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the extruder comprises an extrusion die with cross-sectional configuration adapted to form railing pieces.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the extrudate speed detector comprises an encoder wheel, and the speed-indication output comprises a pulse output.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the pulse output is coupled to the servo-controlled cutter using at least one electrical conductor.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the extrudate speed detector comprises an optical speed detector.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the servo-controlled cutter is a traveling cutoff saw.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the servo-controlled cutter is a traveling fly knife.

18. (Currently Amended) A composite lumber extrusion line for producing composite lumber materials ~~extruded at a variable speed~~, the extrusion line comprising:

an extruder operable to produce an extrudate having substantially uniform cross-sectional dimensions, the extrudate being extruded at ~~the~~ a variable speed;

an extrudate speed detector ~~coupled with the extruder~~ operable to transmit an extrudate speed indication associated with the variable speed of the extrudate; and

a servo-driven cutter comprising a clamp, a movable table, and a table-travel-speed input, the servo-driven cutter coupled to the extrudate speed detector, wherein the movable table moves in relation to the variable speed of the extrudate.

19. (Currently Amended) The extrusion line of claim 18, wherein the ~~composite lumber materials extrudate~~ ~~comprise extruded~~ comprises cellulose composite lumber.

20. (Currently Amended) The extrusion line of claim 18, wherein the extruder is operable to produce the extrudate at a variable speed ~~is dependent upon~~ corresponding to a bulk density of cellulose materials included within the extrudate.

21. (Original) The extrusion line of claim 18, wherein the extrudate speed detector is an encoder wheel.

22. (Original) The extrusion line of claim 18, further comprising a spray bath positioned in the extrusion line between the extruder and the servo-driven cutter, the spray bath being adapted to cool the extrudate from a heated plastic condition to a cooled hardened condition prior to being cut by the servo-driven cutter.

23. (Original) The extrusion line of claim 18, wherein the extrudate speed detector is positioned adjacent the extruder and wherein the extrudate speed detector measures the variable speed of the extrudate by contacting a surface of the extrudate and rotating at a rate proportional to the variable speed of the extrudate.

24. (Original) The extrusion line of claim 18, wherein the extrusion line does not include a puller.